

DOCKENFIELD

newsletter

News and events from in and around the village of Dockenfield
Issue 239
Published 16 September 2013

Those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer

Did you ever imagine, as little as three months ago, that the village would bask in such an uninterrupted spell of glorious sunshine? The gardens may have suffered and the parched ground become cracked, but the Parish has rejoiced in the good weather in its own individual way with local fetes, duck races, flower shows and lazy drinks in pub gardens, whilst the aroma of barbeques has wafted temptingly across the village. But as the leaves begin to turn and an autumnal air prevails, here's a sobering thought. As at the date of publication, it's only 99 days to Christmas. Yes, I thought that would cheer you up! For details of everything that is happening in the next couple of months and an early look at what the festive season will hold, read on.....**Michael**

Opening of the St Mary's new Church Hall Sunday 29 September, 6pm at St Mary's Church

All the Parish of Frensham and Dockenfield are invited to a very special Choral Evensong for the blessing and opening of the St Mary's new church hall by Bishop Ian. If you haven't seen the new hall yet it really is a beautiful addition to what is already a quite lovely building. Its opening is a cause for great celebration after all the terrific fundraising work that has made its construction possible. There will be bubbles and nibbles after the service!
Morag James

Working Party: new date and new location

The annual working party with the Waverley Countryside Ranger will now be on **Sunday 13 October at 10am** and will take place for the first time in the woodland opposite Abbots Cottages. The Bealeswood Common **Management Walk** will be on the same day at **2pm**. See page 6.

News from Dockenfield Parish Council

The Good Shepherd as a Polling Station

Dockenfield Parish Council has been approached by Waverley Borough Council (WBC) who are considering merging the electoral list at Dockenfield with either Frensham, Tilford or Churt. According to WBC, only a small number of voters attend and the vestry is uncomfortable.

Your members objected to this, feeling merging would be unnecessarily inconvenient for the residents, especially those without transport, and a further loss of identity for our already vulnerable village. This matter was to be discussed by WBC in July but has been deferred. After several conversations, the Elections Manager understands our concerns and asked if anybody in the village would be prepared to become a Poll Clerk to staff the polling station. This is a paid post so hopefully people will put their names forward; the contact is Tracey Stanbridge and her email address is tracey.stanbridge@waverley.gov.uk. If you would like to discuss this please contact either Jill or Jessica.

It's the litter again!

We are still seeking help to keep the village litter free. High Thicket Road is covered and Batt's Corner but more volunteers are required to occasionally pick up the odd can or wrapper kindly donated by the passing motorist! In the past, and indeed in the next few months, we have a student carrying out this as D of E project but it would be good to have a few more permanent volunteers.

Parish Council Meetings

Dockenfield Parish Council meets on Tuesdays **17 September** and **15 October** (the third Tuesday of the month). Everybody welcome for part or the whole of the meeting which starts at 8pm and is held at the Good Shepherd vestry.
Jill Trout and Jessica Hobday

VILLAGE DIARY *events you won't want to miss*

Date	Time	Event	Venue	Details
Tuesday, 17 September	8pm	Dockenfield Parish Council Meeting	Vestry of the Church of the Good Shepherd	Page 1
Thursday, 19 September	7.45pm	Millbridge WI	The Marindin Hall	Page 9
Wednesday, 25 September	Midday	Village Lunch	The British Legion	Page 9
Thursday, 26 September	8pm	Frensham & Dockenfield Horticultural Society	The Marindin Hall	Page 10
Friday, 27 September	10am-12 noon	Macmillan Coffee Morning	At both the Bluebell pub and Frensham Cricket Club	Pages 5 & 11
Friday, 27 September	From approx 8.30pm	Music Night at the Bluebell	The Bluebell pub	Page 5
Sunday, 29 September	6pm	Opening of the new St Mary's Church Hall	St Mary's Church	Page 1
Saturday, 5 October	11am-12.30pm	The Village Plant and Produce Sale	Frensham Village Shop	Page 10
Sunday, 6 October	10.30am	Harvest Festival Service	Church of the Good Shepherd	Page 9
Tuesday, 8 October	7.30pm	Frensham & Dockenfield History Group Talk	The Marindin Hall	Page 8
Friday, 11 October	7.30pm	Harvest Supper	Church of the Good Shepherd	Page 9
Sunday, 13 October	10am	Working Party at Abbots Wood	Abbots Cottages	Page 6
Sunday, 13 October	2pm	Bealewood Common Management Walk	Seat at top of Bealeswood Common	Page 6
Tuesday, 15 October	8pm	Dockenfield Parish Council Meeting	Vestry of the Church of the Good Shepherd	Page 1
Thursday, 17 October	7.45pm	Millbridge WI	The Marindin Hall	Page 9
Friday, 18 October	7.30-9.30pm	Premier Wine Tasting Event	New St Mary's Hall	Page 9
Wednesday, 23 October	Midday	Village Lunch	The British Legion	Page 9
Thursday, 24 October	8pm	Frensham & Dockenfield Horticultural Society	The Marindin Hall	Page 10
Friday, 25 October	From approx 8.30pm	Music Night at the Bluebell	The Bluebell pub	Page 5
Thursday, 31 October	From 4pm	Halloween at the Bluebell	The Bluebell pub	Page 5
Sunday, 10 November	12.30pm	Remembrance Sunday Service	Dockenfield Memorial, The Street	Page 3
Tuesday, 12 November	7.30pm	Frensham & Dockenfield History Group Talk	The Marindin Hall	Page 8
Friday, 29 November	From approx 8.30pm	Music Night at the Bluebell	The Bluebell pub	Page 5
Sat 7 December Sun 8 December	11am-5.30pm 11am-6pm	Christmas Tree Festival	St Mary's Church	Page 13
Sunday, 8 December	10.30am	Help put up the Village Christmas Tree	Corner of Green Lane and The Street	Page 3

Christmas in Dockenfield...

Help put up the Village Christmas Tree

Sunday 8 December, 10.30am at the corner of Green Lane and The Street

Great fun for adults and children and less than an hour of your time. Not to be missed.

Village Christmas Carols

Monday 9 December, 6.45pm at the Bus Shelter, corner of Lake Lane and The Street

Wonderfully traditional and a highlight of the village Christmas calendar. Free mulled wine and mince pies.

Important notice about the Christmas Party

Saturday 14 December

It has become apparent over the past two or three years that the Christmas party has changed significantly in character from what was originally a family party for all ages to one orientated to younger children.

Recognising this fact, the Activities Group has been exploring the options to run a separate children's party early in the evening, followed by something for adults. However, having taken feedback from some families with younger children, whilst there is strong support for an "adult" or "family" orientated event, a separate children's party is unlikely to generate sufficient support on its own.

Unfortunately, there are insufficient people available either on the Activities Group or more widely to organise and run a party in the Church this year. But, following the success of the Dockenfield Day evening event at the pub, Robin and Lucy have kindly agreed to run a party at the **Bluebell** in the evening on **Saturday 14 December**; details will be covered in the November DNL.

We fully understand that some of you reading this may be disappointed not to have the traditional Christmas party, however, rest assured the Activities Group is looking at other options for a children's event in the future. **Sebastian Fox**

Dockenfield Day 2014

Dockenfield Day next year will be on **Saturday 7 June**. This means that it has been moved on a week from the actual anniversary of this year's event to avoid it clashing with the Bank Holiday which falls on the weekend of 31 May. Had it been held on that day it would have been only two days before Rowledge Fete.

Volunteers needed for the Activity Group

The Activity Group needs two or three more members to function effectively and help organise and run the Village events. The time commitment is low: a monthly meeting in the run up to Dockenfield Day and the Christmas activities, plus time at the events themselves. We'd also welcome any ideas on how to improve Dockenfield Day or what we could do for Christmas activities. Contact Sebastian Fox on Tel: 792080 or 07930 986677; email him at sebastianfox@hotmail.co.uk, talk to any member of the committee or contact the Newsletter (michael.foster66@btinternet.com)

Sebastian Fox

Remembrance Sunday 10 November and Poppy Appeal Remembrance Sunday

The timings are as follows:-

10.15 am Frensham Memorial Service
10.50 am Remembrance Service, St Mary's Church, Frensham
12.30 pm Dockenfield Memorial Service
1 pm Royal British Legion Club Memorial Service

Poppy Appeal 2013

The Frensham and Dockenfield Poppy Appeal runs from 26 October to 10 November. There will be a team of dedicated collectors visiting each house in Frensham and Dockenfield during that period selling poppies. Donations for poppies can also be made at the usual strategic static locations, such as the Frensham Village Shop, local pubs and schools etc.

We raised the fantastic sum of £6,185 last year and it would be wonderful if we could match or even exceed last year's total, to show our village support for such a worthy cause.

Peter James

Local Poppy Appeal Organiser

Monday, 9 December	6.45pm	Village Christmas Carols	Bus Shelter at corner of Lake Lane and The Street	Page 3
Saturday, 14 December	TBA	Village Christmas Party at the pub	The Bluebell pub	Page 3
Tuesday, 24 December	From approx 8.30pm	Christmas Eve Music Night at the Bluebell	The Bluebell pub	Page 5

33rd Home Countries (National Skeet) International

(or 'What Katy did Next')

You may have read in the last edition of DNL that Katy Poulson was selected to win her first cap shooting for England in the Home International Championships that took place in August. Allen Warren meanwhile was winning his 21st cap in the men's category of the same event. This is Allen's report as to how they got on.

This event is run over 150 targets, in "rounds" of 25 targets, four rounds on Friday followed by two more on the Saturday, with national teams from England, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Scotland, Jersey, Wales and Isle of Man. Since all team members have to qualify to shoot for their respective country it really is a top class field from all over the UK.

This event is difficult to train for, to replicate the pressure of team shooting under these conditions is next to impossible and new caps either love the experience or hate it to the point of never wanting to do it again! We shoot in squads of five, one from each country so normally it's rare to have two team members from the same country on the same squad.

Fortunately Katy seems to thrive on this kind of pressure, shooting 95 out of the first 100 targets, leaving her in 2nd place in the Women's Individual and the England team trailing behind Wales by just a single target. Allen started well shooting 98 x 100 also finishing the day in equal 2nd overall and England leading the team event by just two targets from Ireland.

Day 2 saw a change in the weather (though fortunately not as bad as forecast) and also for some a change in fortunes, and it became a difficult day where conditions also played a large part in scores. At the end of play the England ladies' team finished 2nd, behind Wales with Katy finishing runner-up overall in the ladies event and highest England lady with a score of 141 x 150. Allen finished equal third overall with 147 x 150. England won the senior, veterans and junior team events outright. As always it was a great event with wonderful atmosphere, roll on next year!

Allen Warren

Comings...

A warm Dockenfield welcome to:

- Janet, James and Thomas Needs along with Nala their ('rather fabulous') Springer Spaniel who have moved into Parklands, Old Lane. They tell me that they are previously from Normandy, Guildford although they have been living in Frensham since the beginning of the year. Janet also tells me that she thinks the Newsletter is 'great' so I like her already!
- Morgan and Rhiannon Evans and their children, three and a half year old Rhys and fifteen month old Mari-Elin, who have moved into 2, Weyside Cottages. Morgan is returning to his roots in Dockenfield and the whole family is very happy to be back in the UK, having lived in Sydney for almost a year followed by four years in San Francisco.

...goings...

A very fond farewell to:

- Helen and Todd Crooks who moved from Dockenfield last month after (in Helen's case at least, Todd isn't this old yet!) 25 years in the village. Helen has played a big part in village life, joining the Activities Committee in 1999, and chairing it for three years in the early 2000s. Helen has moved to Royston where she has a sparkling new(ish) job and Todd is going to university. Thanks, Helen for all you have done, and good luck in the future.

...and congratulations

- To Alice Trout and Peter White who got married in St Mary's Church on 31 August, on a lovely summer's day. Alice (who is daughter to Roger and Jill Trout of Batt's Corner) and Peter now live in Alton.

If you are new to the village email me (michael.foster66@btinternet.com) and DNL can welcome you in the next edition. Or if you want to offer congratulations on a wedding, birthday or anniversary again let me know. And if you want to stay in touch once you have left Dockenfield, then ask me to email you a regular copy of DNL.

Moving down the hill

I can think of a number of people who have moved house from one part of Dockenfield to the other, including at least two in our time here who have simply moved next door. So much better, I am sure you would agree, to leaving the village altogether. But its interesting to note that two of those mentioned in 'Comings and Goings' (left) have moved from being neighbours in 'Upper' Dockenfield' and down the hill to 'Lower' Dockenfield, where they have now managed to follow each other into the same house.

Helen Crooks and Morgan Evans were originally neighbours in 'The Old Chapel' and 'Oakleigh' before Helen and her son Todd moved down Bower Hill and into Weyside Cottages. Helen has now upped sticks and moved to South Cambridgeshire, only to be replaced at Number Two Weyside by Morgan, Rhiannon and their family. But there the comparison ends. Whilst Helen moved less than a mile to Weyside, Morgan and Rhiannon circumnavigated the world before they settled there.

Events at the Bluebell

Opening times. Bar Mon-Sat 11-11 Sun 11-10:30 *Food* Mon-Fri 12-3 6-9 Sat 12-9 Sun 12-8 (The pub is also taking bookings for tea/coffee/cakes in the morning).

Live Music Nights. Are on the last Friday of the month although on a Tuesday at Christmas:

27 September: The 'After Hours Club' with Andy Steadman and Frey de Paoli, an acoustic duo; **25 October:** another favourite, 'The Sugargliders' return; **29 November:** 'Missy Nelson' makes her Bluebell debut, eclectic folk music with bass, mandolin and violin. Plus a Christmas Eve special on Tuesday, **24 December:** The Micky Kemp Band.

Themed Food Nights. Saturday **19 October:** Spanish (and the pub would love to invite young families to an earlier sitting from 5-7.30pm); Saturday **16 November:** Greek food and music.

Macmillan Coffee Morning. Friday **27 September** the pub will be taking part in the Macmillan 'Big Coffee Morning' from 10am-midday, with free cakes and coffee with all the money raised going to the charity.

Halloween. Thursday **31 October** there will be an early menu available for trick or treating kids from 4pm onwards; bookings only. There will be a Halloween theme to the pub.

Christmas. The pub is taking bookings for Christmas meals in December. Whilst the pub will not be serving food on Christmas Day, the bar will be open from 11am-3pm.

Village Christmas Party. Saturday **14 December.** The Christmas Party will be held at the Bluebell this year and full details will appear in the next edition of DNL. See also page 3.

New Year's Eve. Will be 'DLI' or Dockenfield Lock In; more information to follow.

Bookings. For any of the special events above it is advisable to book early.

Contact. Keep in touch with the Bluebell on their website www.bluebell-dockenfield.com or Tel: 792801.

And at our other local venues

This is a list of the other pubs, clubs and hotels that are within easy striking distance of Dockenfield. Ahead of each edition I ask them for details of any live music and other special events they may be hosting and list them below if given. Please double check the information in case of any changes.

The Holly Bush, Frensham (Tel: 447060)

The Frensham Pond Hotel (Tel: 795161, www.bw-frenshampondhotel.co.uk)

Frensham British Legion (Tel: 793014)

The current opening times at the Legion are Mon-Thurs: 7pm-11pm; Friday and Sat: 7pm to 11.30pm; Sunday: midday to 10.30pm Bingo is held every Friday evening. For membership details call the number above.

The Halfway House, Bucks Horn Oak

Sadly this pub closed down last month and I have no news of any future management. Let's wish Daniel and Becky Pitt and their young family all the best for the future as they worked immensely hard whilst they were landlords at the pub.

Hare and Hounds, Rowledge (Tel: 792287)

Fridays 27 September and 31 October: Open Mic Night (the last Friday of every month)

Last Saturday of the month: Food themed evening

Sunday 13 October: Farmers' Market in the car park from 10am-1pm (any local traders wanting to participate, please contact the pub. There is no charge for vendors)

Cherry Tree, Rowledge (Tel: 792105, www.thecherrytreerowledge.co.uk)

Other Pub News

The publishers of 'The Good Pub Guide' got a lot of publicity recently for the launch of its new edition by announcing that they expect some 4,000 pubs to close across the UK in the next 12 months, a warning amply illustrated by the demise of the Halfway House (see above). So let's celebrate the rebirth of 'The Bluebell' as well as the 'reinvention' of 'The Holly Bush' in Frensham. Dockenfield and Frensham are two small villages where the absence of a local pub would leave a huge gap at the heart of the community and to have two landlords who are investing significantly in their pubs is (and this is a personal opinion of course) something we should cherish. Both are quietly developing distinctive identities and both, I have been told, are growing in popularity. This is excellent news especially as, if 'The Good Pub Guide' is to be believed, it seems to be bucking the national trend.

And talking of rebirths, have did you know that the 'Pride of the Valley' (Jumps Road, Churt), closed for the last few months, is scheduled to open again in mid September as part of a small chain of pubs under the 'Bel and the Dragon' badge (yes, that's spelled correctly, only one 'l' in Bel). They currently have outlets in Godalming, Cookham, Reading and Windsor. The telephone number for the new Churt branch is Tel: 01428 605799.

News from Abbots Cottages ('Abbots Wood')

I usually use this space to give an update on Bealeswood Common, but for a change I thought I'd tell you a bit about the other Waverley-owned countryside site in Dockenfield, which is the strip of woodland opposite Abbots Cottages. It doesn't seem to have a name (Waverley staff know it as 'Abbots Cottages'), but to save confusion with both the brick and tarmac versions of 'Abbots Cottages', I will here refer to it as 'Abbots Wood'.

Having not previously been allocated a ranger, it was decided in a recent site review that it did in fact warrant one, and was thus added to my already lengthy list of responsibilities. On first inspecting my new acquisition, I was pleasantly surprised to find a very nice section of woodland. The far south eastern corner is classified as Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, a designation given to our oldest and most important woodlands, and supports a sea of bluebells and other wild flowers in the spring. The remainder has good mix of native trees, with some nice individual specimens.

In sharp contrast to Bealeswood Common, which has benefitted from a string of successful working parties, Abbots Wood has been somewhat undermanaged in the recent past. With this in mind, I have decided to give the site some overdue attention, and you the opportunity to get to know it a bit better by running this year's working party there. The date of the working party will be **Sunday 13 October**. Please note this is a change of date from that advertised previously so apologies for any confusion. We will meet at **10am** at the far end of Abbots Cottages road and will tackle some invasive Cherry Laurel which is attempting to take over part of the woodland. There will of course be the obligatory bonfire as well as biscuits and hot drinks.

Please note that the annual **Bealeswood Management Walk** will also be held on the same date (**13 October**) at **2pm**, meeting at the bench at the top of the Common. All are welcome.

Back to Abbots Wood, there is one gripe that gives me cause to break with my usual upbeat tone and have a bit of a moan. Anyone walking along Abbots Cottages couldn't fail to notice the large piles of dumped garden waste in the woodland – grass cuttings, hedge clippings, potted plants (some complete with pot!), tree prunings, bits of shrubbery, and various other forms of greenery. It looks a real mess, and really detracts from the pleasantness and natural feel of the woodland, though actually that's not my main concern.

Its worth pointing out that the dumping of garden waste on land not belonging to yourself is exactly that – dumping. In the eyes of the law there is no difference between the dumping of a sofa and the dumping of grass cuttings. Both are fly-tipping and both are illegal. I do appreciate that most Dockenfield residents do make the effort to dispose of their garden waste responsibly, and I am very grateful to you for doing so. For those few who currently see no harm in dumping it in the woodland, I politely request that you take a few minutes to read the following and from now on dispose of it responsibly.

I also appreciate that some of you will wonder why I'm making such a fuss about a bit of greenery. It's easy to understand why we don't want fridges and trolleys dumped, but garden waste? It rots down doesn't it? Surely it's harmless? Yes it does rot down, but that's part of the problem. In rotting down it increases soil nutrients and fertility. This encourages aggressive rank vegetation such as nettles and bramble, which out-compete wild flowers and completely change the character of the site. It also introduces invasive, non native garden plants which can be costly and difficult, if not impossible, to eradicate. If you look around any area which has suffered long term garden waste dumping, you will spot garden plants in the vicinity. Some are more problematic than others, but none are welcome.

Finally, and perhaps most significantly in a woodland, garden waste can and does kill trees. Piles around a tree lead to hot, wet and airless conditions that put the tree under stress and make it more susceptible to fatal diseases such as *Phytophthora* and honey fungus. We have been forced to fell badly affected trees on other sites and don't want to repeat this at Abbots Wood.

We and our contractors end up spending a lot of time removing dumped garden waste - an endless, demoralising battle - and this diverts us from other work. Unlike private householders, we cannot dispose of it for free as it is then classed as 'trade waste'. The disposal of dumped garden waste therefore uses vital funds (tax payer's money) which we could have otherwise spent on other priorities.

I am intending to run a garden waste clear up day in the Spring and will post more details in a future Newsletter. In the meanwhile, I would like to think that I'm not being too optimistic in hoping that some of you will now refrain from dumping further waste in 'Abbots Wood'.

Vicky Booth Countryside Ranger - western area, Waverley Borough Council Countryside
www.waverley.gov.uk/countryside Tel: 01252 792416

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor

Save money on your heating bills

Householders who use oil for heating may be interested to find out more about an independent organisation which aims to reduce the ever increasing cost of heating oil by grouping consumers together to achieve better bulk buying prices. A club is already running in Churt and Dockenfield residents could help bolster the numbers to mutual benefit.

If you would like to join or find out more please visit the website www.oil.club.co.uk

The benefits are:

- Reduced heating costs.
- By grouping deliveries into a local area there are fewer tanker movements through the village and less pollution.
- There is no obligation to buy specific quantities and membership is free.

Pam Hibbert, Old Lane

Bealeswood Common has done exceptionally well for Butterflies

After the miserable summer of 2012, followed by a cold spring and early summer, it was wonderful to find that Bealeswood Common's grasslands playing host first, to a carpet of Common Spotted Orchids, then as temperatures rose, butterflies and not just a few - a profusion. As a refugee, away from the Centre Court drama on 7 July, I took my camera onto the Common. Still in its bag a White Admiral flew purposefully by while underfoot I disturbed a very late first brood Small Copper. Most striking of all was a colony of beautiful

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Marbled Whites - I saw at least six individuals, an exciting find so close to home. But the sheer numbers of Meadow Browns made this a perfect summer's day for me; all of course indelibly etched against the derring-do of a certain young man from Dunblane.

Alan Cox, alanfcox@gmail.com

The best way to see an Emperor

I moved to Dockenfield one year ago. I have enjoyed the wildlife all year round; hooting tawny owls, soaring buzzard, prancing deer, hunting foxes, scampering badgers, a raven and a red kite. But two weeks ago I came home to find a purple emperor lying dead on my dining room table, not the Roman kind the butterfly kind. Luckily my evening guests had a friend who was an entomologist. So the purple emperor was taken to Keith the entomologist.

Keith was excited about the emperor as they are rare. He informed me that Alice Holt and Dockenfield are known in the entomology world as the place to see the purple emperor and indeed people travel from far and wide (even from all over the world) to see this beautiful butterfly in the old oak woods of Dockenfield.

So out to the oak wood near Old lane I went. I was told the best way to see this butterfly is to lie in a sunny glade and look at the top of the oak trees. So this I did. I have done this before but this time I had a reason. After about an hour of dosing and looking I saw a live purple emperor. I see one most times I walk now and so have another thing to enjoy on my walks. So if you go down to the woods today look up for a big surprise.

Mark Shiner, Old Lane

DNL and the Farnham Herald

I for one am really glad that Farnham has its own local weekly paper. The advance of the internet has meant that hundreds of these have closed down around the country over the years. And yet Farnham not only has its own dedicated paper, but it is independently owned by the Tindle Newspapers Limited. Better yet, the owner, Sir Ray Tindle lives in the town, a fact which pretty much ensures that the Farnham Herald will remain the flagship of the group.

You may not know that this Newsletter gets emailed to the editorial department of the Herald, who I believe find it useful as a source of truly local stories about the village. In the last couple of years the many stories they have picked up on have included Nicola Godden and her wonderful Icarus statue for the Olympics; Mared Evans and the Robbie Boyd Band; Sharon Jackson and wild swimming; and a number of pieces on the unfolding tale at the Bluebell. Most recently there was a delightful photographic piece on Katy Poulson and Allen Warren's selection to shoot for England at Bisley in the Home Internationals and in this week's paper a photographic spread on the Duck Race.

And the Herald kindly returns the favour too, giving vital coverage ahead of Dockenfield Day, followed up this year with a full(ish) page photographic spread celebrating the event. A lovely symbiotic relationship then, and long may it continue.

Cherubs

Cherubs, Dockenfield's and Frensham's baby and toddler group runs on the first and third Thursday of the month from 9.30 to 11am, during term time, at the Good Shepherd in Dockenfield. We are a small, friendly local group catering for babies and pre-schoolers with their carers. During the session we offer a children's snack time, a variety of toys and activities and then finish off with a fun song time with characters and instruments. Cherubs provides a welcoming environment where little ones can socialise and play and hopefully their carers will have time to relax and socialise too! We are a non profit making group run by two local volunteer mums and we charge £2 per family to cover costs. For further information contact **Catherine Kneller**; ckneller3@gmail.com Tel: 07779036883.

The History of the Bluebell

There I was, enjoying a quiet beer with a few mates in the garden of the Bluebell, as one does, and one of them pipes up with the question: 'How much do you know about the history of the Bluebell, Michael?' And the answer to that is: a great deal about its recent trials and tribulations but about its longer term history, well precious little.

Happily Dockenfield Newsletter is blessed to have as a contributor **David Graham**, who will be known to regular readers as the author of some beautifully written and very informative articles on local history that have appeared in DNL in the last couple of years. So I emailed for his view, and quick as you like he replies to say his only knowledge is that it is a 'double pile house and probably dates to the 18th/early 19th centuries'. But he would ask around for me to see if he could find a local historian who could help.

And within 24 hours David is back in touch with the following quote from **Pat Heather**, a local historian who says:

'The common of Beale manor stretched from Batsherne in the west to Inhams in the east, and it was sandwiched between the woodlands of Piltlands on the north and Abbots Wood on the south. In the medieval period an acre of purpresture near the "herne" was enclosed out of the common.'

At the end of the 17th century the acre with its messuage and a barn was in the possession of Robert Trigg as a Beale copyhold. The Trigg family had been in possession of nearby lands in the bishop's manor since the 15th century, and they may have had the Beale copyhold for a similar length of time. On the death of Robert Trigg in 1728 the property was inherited by his nephew Francis Bird.

By the early 19th century the Chuter family held the property and it had gained "new erections and buildings"; in 1841 their tenants were William Hill and others. In 1854 James Cole of Frensham, husbandman, sold the property to John Cole of Batt's Corner for £140. The following year John Cole acquired an alehouse licence for The Bluebell at Batts Corner and he mortgaged the property to John Barratt, the Farnham brewer, eventually selling to him in 1862.'

And the very next day, David has another contribution, this time from **Jean Parratt**, editor of The Farnham Diary, who writes:

'Regarding the history of The Bluebell at Batts Corner, Dockenfield about which you asked. I can tell you that it had an alehouse (i.e. not wines or spirits, only beer) licence, the first on record being given on 8 March 1855 when the licensee was John Cole, but I do not know how long he had held it before this first recorded date. Subsequent licensees were Edward Baker who had the licence granted to him on 6 March 1862, Thomas Aldred (5 March 1863) and George Cobbett (26 October 1893).

In 1904 it had a Poor Rate of £23, sold luncheons, teas and minerals and had accommodation for two persons and two horses. In 1872 the licensing register shows that the public house was owned by Barretti's Brewery followed by Farnham United Breweries.'

So, there is your answer, Jim. Now I think you owe David Graham a pint as well as a drink for Pat Heather and Jean Parratt. Oh, and line one up for me whilst you are at it.

The Farnham Diary comes out at the beginning of every month and free copies can be picked up at various collection points around Farnham, or you can read it on line at www.farnhamdiary.co.uk. If anyone else has memories or recollections of the Bluebell, then do please share them with the village via the Newsletter. For details of events at the Bluebell please see page 5.

Frensham and Dockenfield History Group: Book Launch

The latest book to be published by the Frensham and Dockenfield History Group was launched on Sunday, 4 August at the Frensham British Legion Club. The occasion was also used to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the formation of the History Group. It was fitting that John Chuter, History Group chairman for its first 38 years and author of the book in question, 'Andrew Chuter and Sons, Builders and Contractors 1878 to 1958', was guest of honour with his wife Gwynne.

The book is a fascinating insight into a remarkable family business and relates the story of a successful village building company from its infancy to its closure. There are many photographs of the houses and other public meeting places that were built in and around Frensham most of which can be seen today!

At the end of the celebration John was given a birthday cake for his 90th birthday which he was celebrating the following weekend. All books purchased on the day were signed by John and copies are now on sale at £5 each and can be purchased from Chris Bonner, Tel: 793668 or email: cbonner52@talktalk.net.

During the summer recess the History Group has had visits to Stansted Park, the Rural Life Centre and Savill Gardens/Frogmore House. Regular monthly meetings start again on **8 October** when local resident Chris Thayer will talk on 'The Night Sky over Frensham'. On **12 November** Anne Beadle's talk will be 'Dad's Army!' On **10 December** the Christmas Party will take place.

Chris Bonner

Wine tasting

Friday 18 October 7.30-9.30pm in the St Mary's New Hall

We are delighted to invite you to a Premier Wine Tasting fund raising event to be held in the newly completed extension.

We will start by toasting the new extension with Jenkyn Place Brut. We are expecting owner Simon Bladon to arrive covered in grape juice as he breaks from this year's harvest to describe the vineyard that he has developed, practically on our doorstep, on the south facing slopes of Bentley! Our theme for the tasting is 'new' and 'old', to match the new extension to the beautiful old church of St Mary's. Paul Young, proprietor of local premier wine merchant Imbibros in Farnham, will then lead us through a fascinating array of wines – for example, how will a finely crafted Californian Chardonnay measure up to a premier cru from the grape's traditional home in Burgundy?

All proceeds of ticket sales will go towards the final fit out. It would be fantastic if you could also dig out a bottle of something special for the silent auction. We will be giving a prize to the donor of the wine that attracts the highest bid, and also for the wine that in the opinion of Paul, is the 'most interesting'...

Numbers are limited. Please return completed forms (on page 16) and cheques together with stamped self addressed envelope to Simon Claiden, Treasurer Frensham PCC, 6 The Grange, Frensham, Farnham, GU10 3DS.
Roger Holmes

Harvest Festival Service

Sunday 6 October, 10.30am at the Church of the Good Shepherd

Do bring the family to this delightful service and please also bring as much 'harvest' produce as you can as everything that you donate will be distributed locally. Home produce including fruit, vegetables, jams etc are most welcome as well as all other purchased goods including cans, bottles and packet foods. There will be tea/coffee and biscuits for all after the service. The St Mary's Harvest Festival service will be held at St Mary's on 13 October at 10.30am.

Harvest Supper

Friday 11 October, 7.30pm at the Good Shepherd

This year's Harvest Supper will be held at the Church of the Good Shepherd, starting with a welcome drink at 7pm. This ever popular event will follow the format of previous years' successful suppers with a two-course meal and local entertainment. Tickets cost £12 for adults and £6 for children under 14 and are available from Frensham Village Shop.

Millbridge WI

Thursdays 19 September and 17 October 7.45pm at the Marindin Hall

The next two events of the WI are:

19 September: 'RNLI' by Colin Brown

17 October: 'Canine Partners' by Malcolm Wells

For more information please contact **Cheryl Savage** on Tel: 794970.

Pilates at the Good Shepherd

Pilates continues at the Good Shepherd every Monday evening at 7.45 under the excellent guidance of the tutor Christine who is really good and takes account of all ages and levels of abilities. It's really good for you too, as a number of those who go regularly will testify. For more information contact Belinda Buttery on Tel: 794423.

Village Lunch

Wednesdays 25 September and 23 October, midday at the British Legion

The next two Village Lunch dates are as above. The accompanying charity sales table and raffle will be in support of the Guides and St Mary's Frensham Trust respectively. So as well as enjoying a delicious home cooked lunch with friends, you would be helping those charities as well if you did go along.

Art Exhibition

Saturday and Sunday, 21-22 September, 10am-5pm at Matthew Burch Photography

There will be what is being described as a 'debut art exhibition' at Matthew Burch's studio opposite the Holly Bush pub on the above dates. On display there will be ceramics, glass, paintings and sculpture with some items available for immediate purchase whilst other items can be ordered. There is no entry fee and refreshments are available. More information from Tel: 795110 or www.matthewburchphotography.co.uk

'dBay'

Where you can sell, request, exchange or simply give away stuff (of reasonable quality) that you no longer want.

We have three pine louvered doors, approximate size 197mm high x 46mm wide each. They are in pretty good nick, painted in matt varnish although this could do with a clean or a recoating. I think they cost about £40 each at a DIY supermarket but are free to anyone who wants them, although a donation to St Mary's new church hall fund would be appreciated. Call Michael on Tel: 792142 or email michael.foster66@btinternet.com

The 'village' website

Don't forget to visit Dockenfield Parish Council's website at www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk

Frensham & Dockenfield Horticultural Society

After the perpetual rain of last year, at last we have had a good hot summer, but too hot and dry for some gardens. Most gardens in the village are on the underlying Gault Clay which holds the water longer than the sands of our neighbours in Frensham. So our flowers and veg seem to have fared significantly better even if some of the ground is as hard as concrete and you could lose your secateurs down some of the cracks. As I write, there is some welcome rain on a parched soil. However, the gardening cycle continues and with it a trug-full of activities in your local garden club:

- Evening talk on **Thursday 26 September** (8 pm, Marindin Hall) on “Bulbs for Containers” by Tim Woodland, a professional bulb grower/supplier. He may be bringing bulbs along for sale.
- **Village Plant and Produce Sale**, 11.00 till 12.30. **Saturday 5 October**. There is a change of location for this ever-popular event. This year it will be held at the Frensham Village Shop. There will be plenty of bargains on offer so do come along and buy.
- This year’s open discussion evening will be held in the Marindin Hall on **Thursday 24 October** and will focus on “Saving Your Own Seeds and DIY Propagating”. Again we will lay on a ploughman’s supper and all you need to bring is your favourite tipple. Members will also be sharing spare seeds they have saved or cuttings to propagate or plants for transplanting. These discussion evenings are proving to be both instructive and entertaining.
- Finally, but by no means least, the Society’s annual dinner (the **President’s Supper**) will be held on the **22 November**. Details, and application slips will be given in the September Newsletter to members.

If you are not a member of the Society but would like to join these activities, just turn up to any of the first three events above and you will be made most welcome. If you wish to join the Society then contact one of the following; Membership Secretary, Anton Kleiven Tel: 793928; Secretary, Caroline Plant Tel: 793991; Chairman, Annette Clayson Tel: 726618; President, Dan Bosence Tel: 792442.

Dan Bosence

CPRE and Alice Holt

CPRE Surrey - Golf courses

CPRE Surrey, in conjunction with local residents, achieved a major success in August when the High Court overturned the grant of planning permission by Mole Valley Council for an exclusive golf and hotel resort at Cherkely Court near Leatherhead, on the basis that “need” for the course in the Green Belt in the Surrey Area of Great Landscape Value had not and could not be shown.

The evidence showed that there are more golf courses in Surrey in the 'Top 100' than any other county in the UK. There are 115 golf clubs affiliated to the Surrey County Golf Union comprising 140 golf courses. The ‘Top 100’ golf clubs affiliated to the Surrey County Golf Union include the following rated courses: Sunningdale (Old) (3rd), Sunningdale (New) (7th), Walton Heath (Old) (8th), Wentworth (West) (12th), St George's Hill (14th), Queenwood (26th), Walton Heath New (28th), Addington (30th), Worplesdon (33rd), Hankley Common (34th), Hindhead (68th), Wisley (73rd), Wentworth (Edinburgh) (81st), Coombe Hill (89th), Tandridge (100th). As the crow flies, within 20 miles of Cherkely, there are 192 golf courses.

Alice Holt Community Forum

Following the Independent Panel’s report on the future of our forests, DEFRA has now published for consultation its ideas for the new Public Forest Estate Management Organisation, the successor to the Forestry Commission. The Forum intends to respond. Initial criticisms are that the directors of the new organisation will be appointed by Defra (so it is hardly independent) and that it is said that it must have a strong focus on generating income from commercial activities (holiday villages and camp sites?).

The Forum has also raised some questions about the planned felling of oaks in Goose Green Inclosure later this summer /autumn.

Alice Holt Arboretum Restoration Project

The next volunteer working parties are 15 September, 20 October and 17 November. Come along to the car park off Gravel Hill Road at 10am on those days. All are welcome. Tools are provided. Email contact: chall3422@aol.com

Colin Hall

Please consider your neighbours (and their pets)

Halloween and Bonfire Night aren’t that far away. So if you are planning to ‘trick or treat’ or have fireworks then please do so thoughtfully and with consideration for others.

News from the Village Shop

With a change in the seasons, don't forget we are the local 'drop off point' for your **Dry Cleaning** which then gets sent to The Master Cleaners. Curtains, duvets, blankets, seat and cushion covers, and all types of clothing and fabrics are handled. Lack of space in the shop means the cleaning is kept in the storeroom and not on display as it was in the previous premises, so you could be forgiven for thinking we were no longer handling it!

If you like really local produce, our **Frensham Honey** is about as local as it could be; a mere "stone's throw" for those with strong arms. But you'll need to be quick as the last of this season's jars are already on display.

And talking of local produce, many thanks indeed to all those kind gardeners who have shared their surplus **fruit and vegetables** (and eggs) this summer. We have had some wonderful prize-winning specimens including the biggest onion in the world (well, almost!), amazing potatoes, and a steady stream of beans, spinach, courgettes and cucumbers. One customer is still eulogising about a superb bunch of spring onions that cost her just 13p!

Delivery service now available! Stuck at home and can't get out? Ring Paul on Tel: **795240** to place an order and agree an approximate delivery time.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

This year Frensham Village Shop will be hosting its 18th Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support on **Friday 27 September** from **10am – 12 noon**. Frensham Cricket Club has kindly agreed to allow us the use of the pavilion once again; there will be no better place that morning for coffee and good company! Over the years we have raised more than £9,500 for Macmillan. Do come and join us this year to help us crack the five-figure mark! Everyone is welcome.

Mayonne Coldicott

News from our local Police Officer

Bidding a fond farewell to PC Rob Hawkes

We can now announce that Rob has been forced to retire early due to continued ill health. Rob has been a familiar face around the area for a number of years and originally wrote articles for this publication, before I took over. He was famous for always ending his articles with a joke which, I am sure, many of you will remember.

Rob was widely liked by local residents and I know that he cared deeply about the area and always tried his best to police fairly but firmly. I worked with Rob for a number of years and consider him a personal friend. I wish him a long and happy retirement.

The National Mobile Property Register (NMPR)

This is a single online property search system for all UK Law Enforcement agencies. It allows them to search for any identifiable item of property and view the details of its registered owner, if it's been reported stolen to the system anywhere in the UK.

You can now register your valuable possessions, free of charge, with the NMPR through www.immobilise.com. This allows Police to identify stolen property, aids with prosecutions and allows us to return the items to their rightful owners.

Dockenfield Reported Crime Figures to Surrey Police from 8 July 2013 to 5 September 2013

We have one report of an insecure vehicle being stolen from a field. This was later recovered and a male is currently helping us with our enquiries. Finally we have a report of a vehicle break in where nothing has been taken.

PCSO John Francis, Police Community Support Officer Tel: 101 Ext 31937

Neighbourhood Watch

Readers of the Farnham Herald may have noticed an item in a recent issue concerning the theft of an unlocked van from premises in Shortfield Common Road. Fortunately, and thanks to the alertness of the police, the vehicle was spotted less than an hour later and, following a short chase, two persons were arrested and charged with theft.

This is a timely reminder to us all never to leave a vehicle unattended and unlocked for even the shortest period.

Patrick Rendell

Naughty, then nice

A chorus of loud boos please for the person or persons who dumped an old fridge by the small pond that's situated close to the chicane as you enter the village from Frensham. If they can transport it there to dump it (and disfigure the approach to Dockenfield in doing so), then it should be no difficulty to take it a little further to the recycle tip at Bordon where it could have been disposed of legitimately.

And now a round of applause for the person, persons or for that matter authority that came to take it away.

Where did the birds go?

You may have noticed that there were fewer birds in your garden towards the end of the summer. After all that nesting, brooding, feeding and teaching the fledglings, suddenly things went quiet. Where did the birds go? In many cases, not far. Raising a family (don't we know it) takes it out of parents, and in birds this shows in their slightly tatty-looking plumage. The garden birds were enthusiastic bathers in July and August, as no doubt you noticed. This was because the accumulation of summer parasites, dust and dirt irritated them, and the dilapidated state of their feathers made matters worse. If the birds have been looking rather tattier than usual, it is only to be expected. Gap-winged Rooks and Crows have been flying around for several weeks now. I picked up a wing feather which had been dropped in my garden by one of the local resident Crows. It is black with an iridescent dark blue edge – quite beautiful.

Most birds go into moult at this time, losing some of their year-old feathers as the new ones grow through underneath. This can mean that for a while they are not as quick to fly out of the reach of possible predators. So they tend to lurk in unobtrusive places, nipping out to feed before returning to the cover of trees and shrubs. They have been growing new plumage, for more efficient flight, and for more effective insulation in the colder weather to come.

Birds don't lose all their old feathers at once. Wing and tail feathers are usually shed pair by pair in the post-breeding moult, until all are successively replaced over a period of a few weeks. They are shed evenly, one from the right side and one from the left, so that reasonable balance is maintained in flight during the moult. The new feathers appear as sheathed buds protruding from the follicles in the skin, and these 'feather buds' rapidly lengthen and eventually split to allow the new feathers to emerge and grow to shape.

The body feathers moult in much the same way, but in a slower and more continuous process, which may have started during the breeding season. Blackbirds show their moulting pattern quite clearly at this time of the year: you may notice that they shed their head feathers last of all, so that the young birds, whose first plumage was quite brownish, appear ginger-headed until their moult is complete. Some species need to employ special strategies: for example, the Great Spotted Woodpecker, which relies on its two long central tail feathers as support when climbing or clinging, retains the old pair until all its other tail feathers have been replaced.

It is not only woodland and garden birds which moult. Have you perhaps wondered where all the male mallard ducks went in late summer, when it seemed that only groups of females are about on lakes and ponds? They, too, have been in moult (or 'eclipse,' as some birders say). The male mallards temporarily lose their handsome iridescent green/purple head plumage and look almost as drab as the females, until their new finery grows through. All ducks, geese and swans retreat into the shelter of waterside vegetation while they moult, because, unlike other birds, they lose all their flight feathers simultaneously, so they are completely flightless for about four weeks. When they do fly again, this season's offspring will have developed their wing feathers, and will fly with them for the first time.

In September the birds begin to re-appear, and in October some birds begin to sing again. Even in September you may hear a Robin singing, a slightly less exuberant song than its springtime one, perhaps, though on a warm early September evening I heard a Robin singing loudly from the top of a tall tree in a friend's garden. The sunshine has an encouraging effect on us all, it seems.

Our summer-visiting birds are already migrating. Some, of course, are long gone. Swifts, which arrive late and leave early, were suddenly no longer in our skies in early August. Their young, once their wings were sufficiently strong, tumbled out of their nests, and took off, leaving the parent birds to follow later, flying thousands of miles to Zaire, Zimbabwe, Mozambique or Malawi. And those young Swifts will not land for at least two years, living their entire lives on the wing until they are sufficiently mature to breed, when they will land temporarily in order to build nests and rear young, before they take to the air once more.

Adult male Cuckoos departed by the end of June, and the females, which lingered longer to complete their egg-laying, left in July. They, too, headed off to African skies. The parent birds never saw their young, which a month or so later, abruptly left, heading south-east into Europe, and from there further south, beyond the Sahara. What instinct guides them, and, indeed, how is it that they return to the areas in which they hatched the following spring?

During the rush to migrate, all sorts of birds we don't usually see will be spotted as they fly through the country on their way to Europe or to Africa. As a very few examples, these birds have been seen in the past week or two fairly locally: a Red-rumped Swallow in Old Alresford; a Black Tern, in Chichester Harbour, an Osprey in Langstone Harbour and Titchfield Haven; a Pied Flycatcher in Selsey Bill; a Whinchat in Tice's Meadow, Badshot Lea; and a Honey Buzzard in Puttenham. Thousands of birds are on the move, in this most mysterious phenomenon of migration. We look forward to welcoming back our own particular summer visitors next year.

Val Lewis

Fridge Invaders

In the last edition Anne Tutt kindly gave us the first of two dishes she had created by, in her words, 'reducing the amount of fridge squatters and store cupboard over-stayers'. The recipe for the second delicious dish is below. Thanks, Anne.

Zucchini Crostini

This is recipe that deals more with a glut than an obscure ingredient but we are always looking imaginative ways of consuming our egg mountain and this has been a hot favourite. It also turns the humble courgette into something a bit sexier and takes less time to prepare than it does to find a missing corkscrew.

- 2 courgettes shaved lengthways with a vegetable peeler
- 1 tbsp lemon zest and same of parmesan
- Sourdough bread cut into thick slices
- 8 slices of thinly cut prosciutto

Pour a kettle of boiling water over the shaved courgettes and then drain almost immediately - the less wet they are the better. Add a tbsp of olive oil to the lemon zest and parmesan and season with sea salt and pepper. Toss the courgette slivers in this dressing. Poach the eggs and when still soft lift gently onto kitchen paper to drain. (I could not do this without breaking the yolks so now I just time it so the eggs can go straight onto the finished dish and skip the draining stage). Grill the sourdough on both sides and brush with a little olive oil.

Assemble - with the sourdough at the bottom, then the prosciutto, then the courgettes with the egg on top. Season with a little more salt and pepper and any bits of left over zest. Serves 4

If zesting a lemon seems like a step too far when you are looking for something easy then next time you see neglected lemons in your fruit bowl zest and juice them and then freeze in an ice cube tray together or separately - sticking the zest in small pot.

Anne Tutt

50 Decorated Christmas Trees Wanted

This year will see the 3rd Christmas Tree Festival to be held at St Mary's Church in Frensham, and as before we hope that there will be about 50 decorated trees on display. The Festival will be held on **Saturday and Sunday 7-8 December**, and it is expected that the Church will again take on a magical appearance! To achieve this, of course, we need lots of tree decorators, so this is your chance to let your imagination run riot!

There is no charge to enter a tree and real or artificial trees or branches or even home-made 'trees' can be decorated to represent a Christmas Song or Carol; or a 'play on words'; or decorated to represent your family, group or organisation; or in a traditional way.

In previous years the 'play on words' idea has really caught people's imagination, and there is a lot of scope! Trees could be decorated to represent themes such as 'toilet-tree', 'pan-tree' (or 'pant-ree?'), 'carpen-tree (or maybe carpen-tree?) and lots, lots more. *Whatever you decide, do please contact us as soon as possible to let us know of your tree intentions.*

Proceeds from the Festivals in 2009 and 2011 were donated to the new Church Hall fund, which is now nearing completion. This year it is proposed that half of the proceeds will be donated to the Church Hall fund (to enable fitting-out to be completed). The other half will be divided between charities nominated by the decorators of the most popular trees (as judged by visitors to the Festival) so as a tree-decorator you will have the chance to win a substantial amount of money for the charity of your choice.

The Festival will be open from 11am each day, until 6pm on Saturday, and 5.30pm on Sunday. There will be small entry charges of £3 for adults, and 50p for children aged 5-16yrs. Children under 5yrs. of age will be free, but must be accompanied by an adult. Light refreshments will be available (in the new Church hall!)

At 6 pm on Sunday, immediately following the Festival, there will be a special Christingle Service for families and children. This promises to be a 'fun' service appropriate for all ages, and we hope as many visitors as possible will be able to participate. Please call or email us for more details and an entry form. Make a note of the dates and times!

We look forward to seeing you. **Liz and Harry Glover. Tel: 797827, Email: liz.glover@btinternet.com**

Common Knowledge

Continuing our occasional series of fascinating facts about Frensham Common, although I picked up this nugget of detail from Waverley Borough Council's newsletter 'Making Waves' rather than from Steve Webster direct. And it makes pretty sad reading, as follows.

Did you know that it will take 40 years for the site of the fire at Frensham Common (on 11 July 2010) to return to the state that it was in before the fire and for conditions to be suitable for the return of reptiles?

So if anyone ever thinks about having an illegal campfire or BBQ on the Common, then the answer's simple. Don't.

I was a Weyfest virgin

Despite living in Dockenfield for longer than Weyfest has been running, until this year I had never been. Always meant to go, but somehow never got round to it. But this year my cousin wanted to see The Stranglers and with that incentive off we went on the Friday night. It's the night when there is only one stage operational, which presumably restricts the numbers, but it was sold out well in advance so nicely crowded.

The music, from all four bands on that evening, was good, as was the weather, both of which are obviously important. But what stood out was the atmosphere. Relaxed, family (and dog) orientated, with plenty of room for picnic rugs and chairs and for the disabled and all with a good view plus there is free parking. Better yet there was good beer fairly-priced, a great curry from the varied food stalls on offer and decent and plentiful toilets. Plus, and this is very nice, the staff were super friendly and by a process of osmosis this seemed to filter through to the crowd making it a real pleasure to be there.

Extraordinarily we were home in our kitchen less than 15 minutes after the final encore, so it really couldn't be more convenient. So all in all a great experience, but there was just one little niggle in the back of our minds that we couldn't quite put our finger on. And then we had it. What was 'wrong' was that there was nothing wrong. No queues; no unpleasant staff; no overflowing latrines; no mud; no hassle parking; no overpriced, watered down beer; no duff grub; no aggression. Had we really been to a music festival?

Dockenfield Skittles Night 2013

On Friday 6 September, the annual Dockenfield skittles competition was held at the Jolly Farmer. Remarkably we are already counting down to our first real anniversary - our 10th in 2016. The social side of the evening was really evident this year with over a third of the contestants having to be dragged from the main bar 10 minutes after the official start time. As a result, the competitive side only really clicked after the first round once everyone had had one go. By the end of the second round there was a consistent pattern of scoring between the teams, with no overtaking, and despite a lot of encouragement from team captains and the audience, this pattern continued through the third round.

The excitement at the end was provided by a play-off between the two individuals with the lowest score. It took two play-off rounds before this was decided. Quite an ordeal with the other 31 people watching and cheering the competitors on.

The atmosphere was typical of an informal Dockenfield event - relaxed and having a fun night. But what would you expect with team names such as the Bluebell Boozers; the Carriers; the Latecomers; the Favourites; the Dream Team; and Last and Probably Least. Needless to say, it was the last team that won with a score of 129, averaging 7 per person per round. The team members were John Reyersbach, Roger Trout, Heather Britton, Dot Finlow, Katie Hancock, and Ian Mansell. The individual winners were Gary Britton (27) and Susan Cooke (29).

Many thanks to Ava and Jasmine (both aged 8) for all their help in resetting the skittles after each go. This was the first year they had done the job without any help, although parental encouragement was occasionally helpful as the evening unfolded. This is definitely in the calendar as an annual event, so if you want to join in, book it when it is first announced in the DNL.

Ian Mansell

Nice weather for ducks

Did you go to the duck race at 'pooh sticks' bridge on Bank Holiday Monday? If you did you will know what a lovely event it was. Over 200 ducks set sail down the River Wey, albeit in various heats rather than all at once, having been launched off the bridge by eager participants. The finishing line was about four minutes 'paddling' distance away for each duck. Unless it got stuck in the reeds of course. But even then all was not lost as there was an intrepid canoeist on the river rescuing each duck that got trapped.

Unlike what is normally taken as 'nice weather for ducks', the sun shone and the crowds came and cheered their ducks on, and then picnicked or enjoyed delicious grub from the BBQ. And better yet, some £1,400 was raised for the new church hall. All in all a perfect morning by the river, and one which may be repeated, I'm told, in years to come.

'Goodbye Blackberry Way'

Is there anything tastier than picking blackberries from around the fields (choosing those above dog height ideally) and then cooking them at home for blackberry and apple pie, stewed blackberries, or just plain eating them raw? Total yum, huh? Well as we approach the end of the month, consider this.

It used to be considered unlucky, dangerous even, to eat blackberries after Michaelmas (29 September). The reason was that on or after that date it was believed that they were tampered with by the devil. In the polite version of this superstition the devil puts his foot on the blackberries, or wipes his tail on them. In the more graphic versions he defiles them in rather more.....how can I put this delicately.... earthy ways.

'All the leaves are brown'

Here's an alarming thought. The 22nd September, just after this DNL comes out, is (officially) the first day of Autumn.

Local directory

Useful Websites

Councils

Dockenfield Parish Council: www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk
Farnham Town Council (incl events guide): www.farnham.gov.uk
Frensham Parish Council: www.frensham-pc.gov.uk
East Hampshire District Council: easthants.gov.uk
Surrey County Council: surreycc.gov.uk
Waverley Borough Council: waverley.gov.uk

Local Churches

St Mary's and the Good Shepherd: www.frenshamchurches.org.uk
Farnham Baptists (Marindin Hall): www.fbf.org.uk
Farnham Catholics: www.stjoanofarcfarnham.co.uk

Local Pubs

For contact details of the five most local pubs, please see page 5.

Local Venues

Farnham Maltings: www.farnhammaltings.com
Farnham Museum: www.farnhammaltings.com/museum
Forestry Commission: www.forestry.gov.uk/aliceholt
Marindin Hall: www.marindinhall.org.uk

Local (professional and amateur) Theatre

Bourne Players: www.bourneplayers.co.uk
Churt Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS): www.churt.org
Yvonne Arnaud, Guildford: www.yvonne-arnaud.co.uk

Local Cinema

Aldershot: www.cineworld.co.uk
Alton: www.palacecinema.co.uk
Farnham Maltings: www.farnhammaltings.com
Guildford: www.odeon.co.uk

Useful Local Telephone Numbers

The Village Shop: 795240
Local (Surrey) Police: 101, ext 30076
Local (Hampshire) Police: 0845 045 4545

How to fight crime without revealing your identity

This is another piece of information I have picked up from 'Making Waves' the WBC newsletter and it goes like this.

'If you have seen or heard something about a crime but do not want to speak to the police or wish to remain anonymous, then contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or visit www.crimestoppers-uk.org'.

Crimestoppers are an independent charity and calls to them are not recorded and can't be traced.

Wild Walking?

I have written about local wild swimming in recent editions, and now comes news of (what I am terming anyway) 'wild walking' in Surrey.

Walking barefoot, says the leader of this new group, means that '*the stimulation of the nerves in the feet then stimulates the whole central nervous system. It's good for the whole body*'. Fancy giving it a go? Then visit: meetup.com/barefoot-walking-surrey for more information.

Looping the loop

Were you in your garden on Sunday 18 August? If so the chances are that you saw a Tiger Moth flying over Dockenfield and with every pass of the village the pilot looped the loop and then did a barrel roll in his/her aircraft. They must have repeated this at least five times, almost as though they were putting on a show especially for the village.

Looked pretty scary to me, and that's just from terra firma. Anyone know where the plane came from or whether the pilot was local?

Thank you from Oli Rosling

In July, myself and two other 16 year olds from Lord Wandsworth College cycled from Land's End to John O'Groats, taking 11 days to cover 927 miles in quite hot weather.

I would like to thank all in the village who very kindly sponsored me so that I can go on a trip to do some work at a school in Ghana in October. So far I have raised £1,590!

Oli Rosling

Why sewers were such a cunning plan

Here is an interesting thought from (Sir) Tony Robinson, aka Baldrick from the 'Black Adder' series, and now a TV personality and amateur archaeologist in his own right.

'The thing that really fascinates me about sewers is that they have done more than anything else in the world to extend our lives. It's phenomenal.'

'Men's lifespan has gone up over 50%, women's by over 60%, all because we can flush away our waste and wash our hands. That's far better than antibiotics.'

Further afield

Here are a few great events that are taking place in the next couple of months outside the parish.

14-28 September. Farnham Festival of Food, culminating on Saturday 28 September with the Food Festival itself when Castle Street is closed and filled with food stalls with local chefs demonstrating their skills, samples to eat, stuff to buy, plus live musicians and lots more. www.farnham.gov.uk/visit/events/

Saturday 5 October. Here's something unusual. You can **absail down the side of Guildford Cathedral** in aid of Phyllis Tuckwell. You must be over 16 to participate and must register beforehand, as places are limited. There is a registration fee of £30 and you must be prepared to offer a minimum sponsorship of £220. More details from www.pthshop.co.uk or Tel: 01252 729446.

Saturday and Sunday, 5-6 October. Surrey Hills Wood Fair at Birtley Estate, Bramley, has woodcarving and turning, willow weaving, horse and cart rides, chainsaw carving and much more. Tickets cost £7.50 for adults and children under 12 are free. Open from 10am-5pm on both days. More information from www.surreyhillswoodfair.co.uk

Saturday 26 October. Liphook Carnival with a really rather decent procession through the town centre followed by bonfire and fireworks about ¼ mile walk away. Good stuff, especially for families, but beware the parking as the roads are closed from about 5.30pm. www.liphookcarnival.org.uk

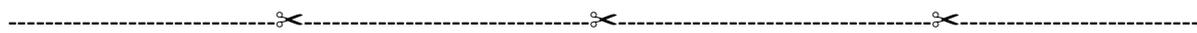
Saturday 2 November. Farnham Bonfire in Farnham Park, kicking off with a procession up Castle Street at 6.15pm. Very popular, well established event. Tickets £5/£3 or £14 families. www.farnham.gov.uk/visit/events/

And even further afield, this is a personal recommendation (although please don't blame me if you go and don't like it!), but the new **Mary Rose Exhibition** in the Historic Dockyards in Portsmouth is worth a visit. It has the remains of King Henry VIII's flagship the Mary Rose (built I believe from Alice Holt oak) plus some quite fabulous and well explained artifacts. We spent two hours there and it wasn't enough. Tickets are quite expensive at £16-17 but they can be used all year. www.themaryrose.org/

Dockenfield Newsletter

Dockenfield Newsletter is produced entirely by volunteers. Neither the editor nor any of the distributors claim payment or expenses of any kind. The only cost is that of photocopying and this is paid for by Dockenfield Parish Council who consider the Newsletter an important service to the village. The views expressed are not necessarily the views of the Parish Council. Letters and articles that are submitted for publication are credited to their author and/or their organisation. All unaccredited articles have been written by the editor. Hard copies of Dockenfield Newsletter are delivered to approximately 250 households in and around the village and a further 150 or so are emailed on request to predominantly local subscribers. Contributors should also note that the Newsletter appears on the Dockenfield Parish Council website. Many readers like to save their copies of the Newsletter, but if you don't do this, then please recycle carefully.

For the next edition **the deadline is 14 November**, with items sent by email please, ideally as a Word attachment, to michael.foster66@btinternet.com. Or through the door at Farm Cottage, Bealeswood Lane.



WINE TASTING AT ST MARY'S – 18 OCTOBER 7.30-9.30PM

Please complete this form and send it with your cheque to:

Simon Claiden, 6 The Grange, Frensham, Farnham GU10 3DS.

Name:..... Address:.....

I would like tickets at £25 each and enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to Frensham PCC.

Yes/No I will bring along a 'prized' bottle for the silent auction or something very 'gluggable' for the raffle.